AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

No claims are added.

Claims 3, 6, 8, 12, 16, 18 and 19 are original.

Claims 7 and 15 are currently amended.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 11, 17 were previously presented.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 3—8, 11—12, 15—19 are pending.

1. (previously presented) A system for porting user data from one computer to another, comprising:

a memory device to store the user data;

a smart card associated with a user that alternately enables access to the user data on the memory device when both the memory device and smart card are interfaced with a common computer and disables access to the user data when one of the memory device or smart card is absent; and

wherein the memory device stores a public key and the smart card stores a corresponding private key and access to the user data in the memory device is enabled upon verification that the public key and the private key are associated.

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) An assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the smart card stores a passcode and access to the user data in the memory device is enabled upon authentication of a user-supplied passcode to the passcode stored on the smart card.

4. (previously presented) An assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the memory device stores a user's profile that can be used for computer configuration.

5. (previously presented) A profile carrier comprising:

a smart card to store a passcode and a private key from a private/public key pair;

a memory device to store a user profile and a public key from the private/public key pair;

wherein when the smart card and the memory device are interfaced with a common computing unit, the smart card is configured to permit use of the private key following validation of a user-entered passcode with the stored passcode and to authenticate the public key stored on the memory device using the private key; and

the profile carrier being configured to permit access to the user profile stored on the memory device upon successful authentication of the public key at the smart card.

6. (original) A computer system, comprising:

a computing unit having a memory drive and a smart card reader; and

the profile carrier as recited in claim 5, wherein the memory device is interfaced with the computing unit via the memory drive and the smart card is interfaced with the computing unit via the smart card reader.

7. (currently amended) A computer system, comprising:

a computer having an interface; and

a profile carrier adapted to use the interface, the profile carrier comprising a smart card associated with a user and a memory device having data memory to store a user's profile, wherein the smart card alternately enables access to the user's profile when present and disables access to the user's profile when absent;

wherein the smart card ~~stores~~ contains a first key;

wherein the data memory ~~stores~~ contains a second key that is associated with the first key; and

wherein the smart card is configured to authenticate the second key from the data memory using the first key as a condition for enabling access to the user data.

8. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 7, wherein the smart card stores a passcode and is configured to authenticate a user-supplied passcode entered into the computer as a condition for enabling access to the user data.

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) A computer system, comprising:

a computer having a memory drive and a card reader;

a portable profile carrier to port a user's profile for configuration of the computer, the profile carrier comprising:

(a) an integrated circuit (IC) card associated with the user that can be interfaced with the computer via the card reader; and

(b) a memory device to store the user's profile, the memory device being interfaced with the computer via the memory drive, the IC card enabling access to the user data on the memory device;

wherein when the profile carrier is interfaced with the computer, the user's profile is accessible to configure the computer;

wherein the IC card stores a passcode and a private key of a public/private key pair;

wherein the memory device stores a public key of the public/private key pair; and

wherein the IC card is configured to authenticate a user-supplied passcode entered into the computer as a condition for enabling access to the private key and to authenticate the public key passed in from the memory device using the private key as a condition for enabling access to the user's profile.

12. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 11, wherein the IC card stores a passcode and is configured to authenticate a user-supplied passcode entered into the computer as a condition for enabling access to the user's profile.

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A method for porting a user profile for a computer, comprising:

storing a user profile in memory of a smart card secured profile carrier, the smart card secured profile carrier having a smart card that selectively enables access to the user profile in the memory;

interfacing the smart card secured profile carrier with the computer; and

reading the user profile from the memory for use in configuring the ~~computer.~~ computer; and

wherein the memory device stores a public key and the smart card stores a corresponding private key and access to the user data in the memory device is enabled upon verification that the public key and the private key are associated.

16. (original) A method as recited in claim 15, further comprising interfacing the smart card secured profile carrier with a different second computer and reading the user profile from the memory for use in configuring the second computer.

17. (previously presented) A method comprising:

storing user data and a public key on a portable memory device;

storing a private key on a smart card;

interfacing the smart card and the portable memory device with a computer;

verifying compatibility of the public key and the private key; and

allowing, in response to the verified compatibility, access to the user data on the portable memory device.

18. (Original) A method comprising:

storing user data in a portable memory device;

storing a device-resident key in the memory device;

storing a card-resident key on the smart card, the card-resident key corresponding to the device-resident key;

storing a passcode on the smart card;

interfacing the smart card with a computer;

interfacing the portable memory device with the computer;

receiving a user-entered passcode;

permitting use of the card-resident key following validation of the user-entered passcode with the passcode stored on the smart card;

passing the device-resident key from the memory device to the smart card;

authenticating, at the smart card, the device-resident key using the card-resident key; and

permitting access to the user data stored in the memory device upon successful authentication of the device-resident key.

19. (Original) In a system having a computer and a smart card secured profile carrier, the smart card secured profile carrier having memory to store a user profile and a smart card separate from the memory, computer-readable media resident on the profile carrier having executable instructions comprising:

receiving a user-supplied passcode from the computer;

authenticating the user-supplied passcode with a passcode stored on the smart card;

enabling access to a private key on the smart card upon successful authentication of the user-supplied passcode;

receiving a public key from the memory;

authenticating the public key using the private key; and

enabling access to the user profile in the memory upon successful authentication of the public key.